

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A machine-implemented method, comprising:
establishing, within an ~~global~~ operating system environment provided by an operating system, a first operating system partition which serves to isolate processes running within the first partition from other operating system partitions within the ~~global~~ operating system environment such that processes executing in one operating system partition do not access or affect processes in any other operating system partition;
associating a first partition share value with the first partition, wherein the first partition share value indicates what portion of computing resources provided by a processor set has been allocated to the first partition;
associating a first process group share value with a first group of one or more processes executing within the first partition, wherein the first process group share value indicates what portion of the computing resources allocated to the first partition has been allocated to the first group of one or more processes; and
scheduling a set of work from one of the processes in the first group of one or more processes for execution on the processor set, wherein the set of work is scheduled in accordance with a priority determined based, at least partially, upon the first partition share value and the first process group share value.
2. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein a global administrator sets the first partition share value.
3. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein a partition administrator sets the first process group share value.
4. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the processor set comprises one or more processors.
5. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein scheduling further comprises:

- determining, based at least partially upon usage history, whether all of the processes in the first group of one or more processes have consumed up to the portion of processing resources indicated by the first process group share value.
6. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 5, wherein scheduling further comprises: in response to [[a]] the determination that all of the processes in the first group of one or more processes have consumed up to the portion of processing resources indicated by the first process group share value, assigning a lower priority to the set of work.
7. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim [[5]] 1, wherein scheduling further comprises: determining, based at least partially upon usage history, whether all of the processes in the first partition have consumed up to the portion of processing resources indicated by the first partition share value.
8. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 7, wherein scheduling further comprises: in response to [[a]] the determination that all of the processes in the first partition have consumed up to the portion of processing resources indicated by the first partition share value, assigning a lower priority to the set of work.
9. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 7, wherein scheduling further comprises: in response to [[a]] the determination that all of the processes in the first group of one or more processes have not consumed up to the portion of processing resources indicated by the first process group share value, and in response to a determination that all of the processes in the first partition have not consumed up to the portion of processing resources indicated by the first partition share value, assigning a higher priority to the set of work.
10. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein a process with a highest relative priority has its set of work executed on the processor set next.

11. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the first partition share value represents a value that is relative to other partition share values sharing the computing resources.
12. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein the first partition share value represents a percentage of the computing resources allocated to the first partition.
13. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the first process group share value represents a value that is relative to other process group share values within the first partition sharing the computing resources.
14. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein the first process group share value represents a percentage of the first partition's allocated computing resources that are allocated to the first group of one or more processes.
15. (Currently Amended) A machine-readable storage medium, comprising:
 - instructions for causing one or more processors to establish, within an ~~global~~ operating system environment provided by an operating system, a first operating system partition which serves to isolate processes running within the first partition from other operating system partitions within the ~~global~~ operating system environment such that processes executing in one operating system partition do not access or affect processes in any other operating system partition;
 - instructions for causing one or more processors to associate a first partition share value with the first partition, wherein the first partition share value indicates what portion of computing resources provided by a processor set has been allocated to the first partition;
 - instructions for causing one or more processors to associate a first process group share value with a first group of one or more processes executing within the first partition, wherein the first process group share value indicates what portion of the computing resources allocated to the first partition has been allocated to the first group of one or more processes; and

instructions for causing one or more processors to schedule a set of work from one of the processes in the first group of one or more processes for execution on the processor set, wherein the set of work is scheduled in accordance with a priority determined based, at least partially, upon the first partition share value and the first process group share value.

16. (Currently Amended) The machine-readable storage medium of Claim 15, wherein a global administrator sets the first partition share value.
17. (Currently Amended) The machine-readable storage medium of Claim 15, wherein a partition administrator sets the first process group share value.
18. (Currently Amended) The machine-readable storage medium of Claim 15, wherein the processor set comprises one or more processors.
19. (Currently Amended) The machine-readable storage medium of Claim 15, wherein the instructions for causing one or more processors to schedule comprises:
instructions for causing one or more processors to determine, based at least partially upon usage history, whether all of the processes in the first group of one or more processes have consumed up to the portion of processing resources indicated by the first process group share value.
20. (Currently Amended) The machine-readable storage medium of Claim 19, wherein the instructions for causing one or more processors to schedule further comprises:
instructions for causing one or more processors to assign, in response to [[a]] the
determination that all of the processes in the first group of one or more processes have consumed up to the portion of processing resources indicated by the first process group share value, a lower priority to the set of work.
21. (Currently Amended) The machine-readable storage medium of Claim [[19]] 15, wherein the instructions for causing one or more processors to schedule further comprises:

- instructions for causing one or more processors to determine, based at least partially upon usage history, whether all of the processes in the first partition have consumed up to the portion of processing resources indicated by the first partition share value.
22. (Currently Amended) The machine-readable storage medium of Claim 21, wherein the instructions for causing one or more processors to schedule further comprises: instructions for causing one or more processors to assign, in response to [[a]] the determination that all of the processes in the first partition have consumed up to the portion of processing resources indicated by the first partition share value, a lower priority to the set of work.
23. (Currently Amended) The machine-readable storage medium of Claim 21, wherein the instructions for causing one or more processors to schedule further comprises: instructions for causing one or more processors to assign, in response to [[a]] the determination that all of the processes in the first group of one or more processes have not consumed up to the portion of processing resources indicated by the first process group share value, and in response to a determination that all of the processes in the first partition have not consumed up to the portion of processing resources indicated by the first partition share value, a higher priority to the set of work.
24. (Currently Amended) The machine-readable storage medium of Claim 15, wherein a process with a highest relative priority has its set of work executed on the processor set next.
25. (Currently Amended) The machine-readable storage medium of Claim 15, wherein the first partition share value represents a value that is relative to other partition share values sharing the computing resources.
26. (Currently Amended) The machine-readable storage medium of Claim 15, wherein the first partition share value represents a percentage of the computing resources allocated to the first partition.

27. (Currently Amended) The machine-readable storage medium of Claim 15, wherein the first process group share value represents a value that is relative to other process group share values within the first partition sharing the computing resources.
28. (Currently Amended) The machine-readable storage medium of Claim 15, wherein the first process group share value represents a percentage of the first partition's allocated computing resources that are allocated to the first group of one or more processes.
29. (Currently Amended) An apparatus, comprising:
a mechanism for establishing, within an ~~global~~ operating system environment provided by an operating system, a first operating system partition which serves to isolate processes running within the first partition from other operating system partitions within the ~~global~~ operating system environment such that processes executing in one operating system partition do not access or affect processes in any other operating system partition;
a mechanism for associating a first partition share value with the first partition, wherein the first partition share value indicates what portion of computing resources provided by a processor set has been allocated to the first partition;
a mechanism for associating a first process group share value with a first group of one or more processes executing within the first partition, wherein the first process group share value indicates what portion of the computing resources allocated to the first partition has been allocated to the first group of one or more processes; and
a mechanism for scheduling a set of work from one of the processes in the first group of one or more processes for execution on the processor set, wherein the set of work is scheduled in accordance with a priority determined based, at least partially, upon the first partition share value and the first process group share value.
30. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 29, wherein a global administrator sets the first partition share value.

31. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 29, wherein a partition administrator sets the first group share value.
32. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 29, wherein the processor set comprises one or more processors.
33. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 29, wherein the mechanism for scheduling further comprises:
a mechanism for determining, based at least partially upon usage history, whether all of the processes in the first group of one or more processes have consumed up to the portion of processing resources indicated by the first process group share value.
34. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of Claim 33, wherein the mechanism for scheduling further comprises:
a mechanism for assigning, in response to [[a]] the determination that all of the processes in the first group of one or more processes have consumed up to the portion of processing resources indicated by the first process group share value, a lower priority to the set of work.
35. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of Claim ~~[[33]]~~ 29, wherein the mechanism for scheduling further comprises:
a mechanism for determining, based at least partially upon usage history, whether all of the processes in the first partition have consumed up to the portion of processing resources indicated by the first partition share value.
36. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of Claim 35, wherein the mechanism for scheduling further comprises:
a mechanism for assigning, in response to [[a]] the determination that all of the processes in the first partition have consumed up to the portion of processing resources indicated by the first partition share value, a lower priority to the set of work.
37. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of Claim 35, wherein the mechanism for scheduling further comprises:

a mechanism for assigning, in response to [[a]] the determination that all of the processes in the first group of one or more processes have not consumed up to the portion of processing resources indicated by the first process group share value, and in response to a determination that all of the processes in the first partition have not consumed up to the portion of processing resources indicated by the first partition share value, a higher priority to the set of work.

38. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 29, wherein a process with a highest relative priority has its set of work executed on the processor set next.
39. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 29, wherein the first partition share value represents a value that is relative to other partition share values sharing the computing resources.
40. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of Claim 29, wherein the first partition share value represents a percentage of the computing resources allocated to the first partition.
41. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 29, wherein the first process group share value represents a value that is relative to other process group share values within the first partition sharing the computing resources.
42. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of Claim 29, wherein the first process group share value represents a percentage of the first partition's allocated computing resources that are allocated to the first group of one or more processes.